

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/841,149

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Examiner: Koenig, Andrew Y

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Commissioner for Patents

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed March 22, 2007, reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

All of the present claims are patentable over Marler et al. (US Patent Application 2001/0003212) even in view of Mao et al. (US 6,459,427) and further in view of Zdepski et al. (US 6,006,256).

Marler describes a mechanism of transmitting ancillary information as well as information used to identify the ancillary information along with video data. (Marler abstract, claim 1). However, Marler neither teaches nor suggests creating an integrated video data stream by integrating interactive content with a video data stream in response to one or more triggers, as presently claimed.

One of the ways Marler transmits ancillary information with television content is by using ATVEF specification-compliant techniques. Marler ¶0003. In accordance with the ATVEF specification, enhancement data added to the transmission may include an ATVEF announcement, a resource and a trigger. "The three components may be transmitted using IP multicast to the receiver." Marler ¶0020.

The triggers discussed in Marler are thus a component of the enhancement data that is added to the

video stream. In other words, these triggers are part of the interactive content and are used to enable interactivity by synchronizing enhancement data with the TV transmission. Marler ¶0021. Importantly, there is no integrated video data stream being created by integrating interactive content with a video data stream in response to one or more triggers, which integrated video data stream is subsequently transmitted to receivers, as presently claimed.

The Office Action concedes that Mao neither teaches nor suggests creating integrated video data stream by integrating interactive content with a video data stream in response to one or more triggers, as presently claimed. As discussed above, Marler also fails to cure this deficiency. Thus, the combination of Mao and Marler also fails to teach the above limitation.

Adding the teaching of Zdepski to Mao fails to cure the deficiency of Mao. Zdepski describes a mechanism to add interactive programming to television signal prior to broadcasting. Zdepski Abstract. However, Zdepski neither teaches nor suggests creating integrated video data stream by integrating interactive content with a video data stream in response to one or more triggers, as presently claimed. In Zdepski the triggers discussed are part of the interactive content (much like the triggers discussed by Marler) and are not the triggers based on which interactivity is integrated in a video data stream.

For at least these reasons, the present claims are patentable over the combination of Marler, Zdepski and Mao.

If there are any additional fees due in connection with this communication, please charge our deposit account 19-3140

Respectfully submitted,
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